DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 462 161 PS 030 093

TITLE	Better Education Is Everybody's Business! How Business Can Support Family Involvement in Education.
INSTITUTION	Partnership for Family Involvement in Education (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	2000-00-00
NOTE	7p.
AVAILABLE FROM	ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Tel: 877-433-7827 (Toll Free); Tel: 800-872-5327 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.ed.gov/PFIE.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Elementary Secondary Education; *Family Involvement; *Family School Relationship; Family Work Relationship; *Parent Participation; *Partnerships in Education; *School Business Relationship
IDENTIFIERS	Business Community Relationship; Family Support

ABSTRACT

Based on the view that a strong and vigorous economy depends upon an educated, skilled, and competent citizenry, this pamphlet describes how businesses can support family involvement in education and thereby increase students' chances for school success. The pamphlet provides a rationale for joining the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education and includes an enrollment form. In addition, the pamphlet delineates materials available from the U.S. Department of Education providing guidelines on getting families involved in education. Finally, the pamphlet describes four ways employers can support family involvement in education: (1) create and promote family-friendly policies; (2) partner with local schools; (3) provide information on family involvement in education; and (4) help students obtain work-related skills. (KB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 462 161

PS 030093

PS

AN INNOVATIVE, FLEXIBLE WORKPLACE IMPROVES THE BOTTOM LINE BY:

- Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce
- Recruiting and Keeping Top Workers
- Increasing Productivity
- Improving Morale
- Increasing Employee Motivation and Loyalty
- Reducing Absenteeism

"The support of business is crucial to improving education in America. When business gets involved, schools get better and our nation's prosperity is ensured."

— Richard W. Riley
U.S. Secretary of Education

BETTER EDUCATION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!

How Business Can Support Family Involvement in Education

This brochure is in the public domain.
Feel free to photocopy or reprint it.

Partnership for Family Involvement in Education

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

EMPLOYERS FOR LEARNING PROMISE

A strong and vigorous economy, for our employers and our nation, depends upon an educated, skilled, and competent citizenry. Today's students are tomorrow's citizens, and our long-term investment for the future. Employers play an important role in the school-improvement efforts on local, state, and national levels. We can now multiply the effectiveness of such efforts by enlisting our current employees as partners in the campaign to support and better the American educational system. Any company, regardless of its size, can take steps to support local education. Over 30 years of research shows that greater family and community involvement in children's learning is a critical link to achieving a high-quality education.

Small investments that enable employee participation in students' academic success, and in our education system, lead to a win/win for everyone:

- ***EMPLOYERS WIN*** by helping prepare a highly skilled and globally competitive workforce.
- ***EMPLOYEES WIN*** by making positive differences in children's education and in their local schools.
- ***SCHOOLS WIN*** from increased parental and community involvement.
- ***STUDENTS WIN*** from better education.

We recognize there are many ways to get started:

- Contact one or more schools to discuss opportunities for cooperation.
- Explore with employees ways in which they can help children learn.
- Explore with employees ways they can help schools better educate their students.
- Explore policies and practices to encourage and enable employee involvement in schools and learning.
- Contact the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education for information.

We commit to:

- Identify a contact person, authorized to explore and develop options for company involvement in our family-school-community initiatives.
- Take action to implement programs.
- Share best practices after evaluating programs annually.
- Form partnerships with other stakeholders to promote, implement, and improve family-friendly policies and practices.

We would like to become a member of the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education. We commit to family-

friendly practices and will work with others to form partnerships that support children's learning. (Please type or print the following information.)

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

President/CEO: _____ Signature: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

Send to: Partnership for Family Involvement in Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8173 or fax to 202-205-9133 to receive your **Employers For Learning Promise Certificate.**

GREAT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- *America Goes Back to School* encourages everyone to go back to a school each fall to share their talents and experiences. A free kit is available to help you organize an event and start a long-term partnership between your local school and community organizations and businesses.

- *Think College Early* encourages students to take the tougher courses they need to be prepared to go to college, starting in middle school, and to inform parents of the necessary sequence of courses their child needs to take, such as algebra in the eighth grade and chemistry by eleventh or twelfth grade, as well as the financial planning needed to help pay for college.

- *America Reads Challenge: Read*Write*Now!* encourages children to read and write 30 minutes a day and to work with a learning partner. Age-appropriate activities and materials are available to help children work on their reading skills with parents, teenagers, and other caring adults.

- *Priority on After-School Extended Learning.* Partner members have placed new emphasis on the importance of providing before- and after-school activities that extend learning for children in a safe, drug-free environment.

To receive free information about any of these initiatives or to ask for materials, call the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-USA-LEARN.

EMPLOYER OPTIONS FOR SUPPORTING FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

Create and promote family-friendly policies. Offer policies that encourage employees and parents to be involved in classroom or after-school activities by providing flextime, job-sharing, or time off. Support employees and parents by organizing activities through the worksite such as parenting or college planning seminars, newsletters, referral services, and training of employee volunteers.

Partner with local schools. Work with schools to help them better meet the needs of employed parents through convenient scheduling of parent/teacher conferences, voice mail and parent resource centers in schools. Help establish a homework hotline for parents and support employee-led efforts that provide mentoring, tutoring, and guidance to those students most in need. Help get technology into the classroom. Honor outstanding teachers, principals and students.

Provide information. Support programs at the worksite or in the community that help give tips to parents and employees on how to become involved in education. This doesn't even have to cost company time—information can be available in the break room or seminars can be given at lunch time.

Help students obtain work-related skills. Provide work-based experiences for high school students through internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing. Help them connect to colleges and postsecondary job training. These students will be better prepared employees when they enter the workforce.

PLEASE JOIN US

Your business is invited to join the **Partnership for Family Involvement in Education**, a growing national coalition of thousands of families, schools, communities, religious organizations and employers who recognize their interdependent roles in supporting family and community involvement in children's learning and improving our schools. Sign and return the **Employers for Learning Promise** on the inside of this brochure. For more complete information,

Call the U. S. Department of Education
at 1-800-USA-LEARN
or
Write to the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education
600 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-9133
http://www.ed.gov/PFIE

PARTNERSHIP
for Family
Involvement
in Education